larger than (n+1)__/2 but less than n_, where n is the number of letters in the touchpad or the number of letters in the row of the touchscreen having the most letters. The actual overall horizontal length will depend upon the extent of overlap of the areas of the virtual keys.

[0046] Reference is now made to **FIGS. 7, 8A** and **8B**. **FIG. 7** is a flowchart illustration of an exemplary method for determining which letters to pass to the predictive text software module. **FIGS. 8A and 8B** are illustrations of a virtual "G" key in accordance with alternate embodiments of the present invention.

[0047] A touch location is received (**700**). If the touch location is within overlapping areas of two or more virtual keys (**702**), then all letters whose virtual key area includes the touch location are selected and sent to the predictive text software module (**704**).

[0048] In some embodiments, the two or more letters sent to the predictive text software module in block **704** may be sent with one or more numerical weights indicating that the touch location is closer to one of the selected letters than to the others, or indicating how much closer the touch location is to one of the selected letters than to the others. The predictive text software module may take these numerical weights into account when determining which of the selected letters the user intended to enter.

[0049] For example, the virtual key of the letter "G" shown in **FIG. 8A** is defined as the area bounded by the horizontal centers **802** and **804** of the letters "F" and "H", respectively and by the vertical centers **806** and **808** of the letters "R", "T" and "Y", and "C", "V" and "B", respectively. If the touch location is in the region denoted **810**, then the letters "G", "T", "Y" and "H" are sent to the predictive text software module. If the touch location is in the region denoted **812**, then the letters "G", "T" , "R" and "F" are sent to the predictive text software module. If the touch location is in the region denoted **814**, then the letters "G", "F", "C" and "V" are sent to the predictive text software module. If the touch location is in the region denoted **816**, then the letters "G", "H", "B" and "V" are sent to the predictive text software module. In an alternative embodiment, each touch may result in only three letters being sent to the predictive text software module, such as, for example, the three letters having centers that are closest to the touch location.

[0050] In another example, the virtual key of the letter "G" shown in **FIG. 8B** is defined as the area bounded by the lines joining the centers of the letters nearest to the letter "G". If the touch location is in the region denoted **821**, then the letters "G", "T" and "F" are sent to the predictive text software module. If the touch location is in the region denoted **822**, then the letters "G", "F" and "V" are sent to the predictive text software module. If touch location is in the region denoted **823**, then the letters "G", "V" and "B" are sent to the predictive text software module. If touch location is in the region denoted **824**, then the letters "G", "B" and "H" are sent to the predictive text software module. If touch location is in the region denoted **825**, then the letters "G", "H" and "Y" are sent to the predictive text software module. If the touch location is in the region denoted **826**, then the letters "G", "Y" and "T" are sent to the predictive text software module.

[0051] If the touch location is within the area of the virtual key of only one letter (**706**), then the letter is the input (**708**). Otherwise, the touch location is not sufficiently close to any of the letters to generate letter input (**710**).

[0052] Reference is now made to **FIG. 9**. **FIG. 9** is a block diagram of an exemplary mobile electronic device **900**. Device **900** may be a personal data assistant (PDA), a personal information manager (PIM), a two-way pager, a cellphone, a handheld terminal, and the like. In some embodiments, device **900** may be a two-way communication device with data communication capabilities having the capability to communicate with other computer systems. In some embodiments, device **900** may also include the capability for voice communications. Device **100** of **FIG. 1** and device **200** of **FIG. 2** are examples for device **900**.

[0053] Device **900** comprises a microprocessor **902** that controls the overall operation of device **900**, a persistent store **904**, a volatile store **906**, a display **908** and an input subsystem **910**. Device **900** may comprise additional components that are not shown in **FIG. 9** so as not to obscure the description of embodiments of the invention. Operating system software used by microprocessor **902** is typically stored in persistent store **904**, such as, for example, flash memory or read-only memory (ROM), programmable ROM (PROM), mask ROM, electrically programmable read-only memory (EPROM), electrically erasable and programmable read only memory (EEPROM), non-volatile random access memory (NVRAM), a magnetic or optical card, CD-ROM, and the like. Microprocessor **902**, in addition to its operating system functions, enables execution of software applications on device **900**. The operating system, specific device applications, or parts thereof, may be temporarily loaded into volatile store **906**, such as for example, random access memory (RAM), static random access memory (SRAM), dynamic random access memory (DRAM), synchronous dynamic random access memory (SDRAM), RAMBUS dynamic random access memory (RDRAM), double data rate (DDR) memory, and the like.

[0054] A non-exhaustive list of examples for display **908** includes a liquid crystal display (LCD) screen and a thin-film-transistor (TFT) LCD screen. [0055] Input subsystem **910** may include any of a keyboard **912**, a roller wheel **914**, one or more touchpads **916**, and one or more touchscreens **918**, and the like, or any combination thereof.

[0055] Device **900** is battery-powered and includes a power supply and management subsystem **920**. Although current technology makes use of a battery, future technologies such as micro fuel cells may provide the power to device **900**.

[0056] The methods described hereinabove and illustrated with respect to **FIGS. 3, 5** and **7** may be stored as instructions, for example in persistent store **904**, and executed by microprocessor **902** during processing of user input. The predictive text software module referred to hereinabove may also be stored as instructions, for example in persistent store **904**, and executed by microprocessor **902**. The predictive text software module is to determine which of the selected letters the user intended to enter, as is known in the art, possibly with further input from the user.

[0057] Unlike "text on nine keys" (T9), which determines which of three or four letters is the letter that the user intended to enter, in some embodiments of the present invention, only two letters are sent to the predictive text software module. Moreover, in T9, the grouping of letters in groups of three or four is fixed and always the same (e.g. {"A", "B" and "C"}, {"D", "E" and "F"}, {"G", "H" and "I"}, {"J", "K" and "L"}, {"M", "N" and "O"}, {"P", "Q",